

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01
AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /084 W
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R 190959Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER
COMNAVACT ROTA SP
16THAF TORREJON SP
AMCONSUL SEVILLE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08209

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS:MARR, US, SP
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY CITY OF ROTA; AUTO
CIRCULATION TAX ISSUE

REF: STATE 177269 (DTG 132114Z JUL 78) (NOTAL)

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, WHICH ASKS VIEWS OF THIS MISSION, EUCOM AND NAVEUR, OUR VIEWS WERE MOST RECENTLY SUMMARIZED IN MADRID 6078 (DTG 311234Z MAY 78), PARA 12 OF WHICH CONTAINS 3 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. THE MATERIAL IN THAT MESSAGE REMAINS CURRENT; THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES BY THE MISSION SINCE MAY.

2. THE ROTA NAVAL STATION IS UNIQUE AMONG THE MAJOR US MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN IN BEING THE ONLY ONE CREATED BY THE US (THE THREE SPANISH AIR BASES ALREADY EXISTED),
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IN ITS IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY TO THE TOWN OF ROTA, AND IN THE TOWN'S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE BASE. (THE MAYOR IS WONT TO SAY THAT THE BASE IS ROTA'S INDUSTRY.) THIS SITUATION CREATES DEMANDS BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NOT FELT TO THE SAME DEGREE ELSEWHERE, BUT ALSO MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIPS BENEFICIAL TO THE TOWN -- AND ULTIMATELY TO OUR CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE -- WHICH NEED NOT SERVE

AS PRECEDENTS FOR OUR OTHER MAJOR FACILITIES IN SPAIN.
WHILE PAYMENT OF THE CIRCULATION TAX ITSELF (NOT FOR THE
MOMENT AT ISSUE) WOULD CREATE AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT, A
SPECIAL US EFFORT TO HELP COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE ROTA
AREA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IN
SOUTHERN SPAIN COULD BE CAST IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE
THE CREATION OF PRECEDENTS FOR TORREJON,ZARAGOZA AND MORON.
WE WOULD, OF COURSE, NEED THE EXPLICIT COOPERATION OF THE
GOS AND LOCAL ROTA AUTHORITIES IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS.

3. WE WOULD DRAW WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION TO THE RECENT
VISITS TO MADRID OF TWO PRESTIGIOUS CODELS(BYRD AND BURTON,
THE LATTER INCLUDING CONGRESSMAN ROBERT WILSON OF CALIF.
AND THUS REPRESENTING BETWEEN THEM THE ARMED SERVICES COM-
MITTEES OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS). BOTH CODELS INDICATED
TO US INTEREST IN WHAT FORM MIGHT BE GIVEN TO A LARGER US
CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SPANISH ARMED
FORCES, IN THE CONTEXT OF US SUPPORT FOR THE CONSOLIDATION
OF SPANISH DEMOCRACY AND CONTINUED SPANISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO
WESTERN DEFENSE.

4. FINALLY, ADDING TO THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE
REFTEL, WE WONDER IF CONSIDERATION MIGHT NOT USEFULLY BE
GIVEN TO OFFERING AT OR BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE US-
SPANISH COUNCIL TO JOIN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IN SPECIFIC
EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE ROTA-
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